

UNCLASSIFIED

E-2SIA

AUG 14 1980

August 12, 1980

Congressman Steve L. Neal
251 N. Main St.
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101

Dear Sir:

During the Hitler era the United States refused to take a firm stand and speak out against the atrocities that were being committed against the Jews and other "undesirable" elements in the Axis countries. Today the United States has an opportunity to take a stand and attempt to help one of the few people who tried to save some of the condemned Jews of Hungary during World War II.

Raoul Wallenberg saved the lives of more than 25,000 Hungarian Jews in World War II through his personal intervention. A Swedish diplomat and Christian, he was the only person from the free world who volunteered to go to Hungary to help its people in 1944.

Wallenberg was sent to Budapest by the American Refugee Board to help with a rescue mission. He risked his life many times by personally going to the deportation trains and handing out Swedish passports to all who could reach them, then insisting that these people were under the protection of the Swedish government and must be allowed to detain.

Wallenberg personally confronted Adolf Eichmann twice, and established "international houses" where the Swedish flag was flown and more than 10,000 Jews were given refuge. By risking his own life many times over, Wallenberg saved the lives of more than 25,000 Jews.

In 1945 Wallenberg was taken prisoner by the Russians who took over Hungary. It is not known exactly why he was arrested, only that he was sent to Moscow and disappeared into the Soviet prison system without charge or trial.

At first the Soviets denied any knowledge of Wallenberg. At a later date they claimed he had died in a Soviet prison in 1947. However, repeated reports from reliable eye witnesses have stated that Wallenberg was seen alive in the Siberian "Gulag" after 1947. The latest information received about Wallenberg came from a Soviet Jew named Jan Kaplan who was rearrested soon afterwards by the Soviets and has not been heard from in a year.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, at the request of members of the Wallenberg family, has made personal representations to the Swedish government and has met with many United States government officials. Please urge our government to get involved this time. We would not help save millions of lives in the 1930's and '40's, but maybe we can save one life in the 1980's.

Please Help!

B6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPG/CDR

10/15/93

() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
(X) EXCISE () DECLASSIFY
() DENY IN PART
() DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions B6
PA Exemptions _____

MR Cases Only:
EO Citations _____

() CLASSIFY as () S or ()
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C OADR

UNCLASSIFIED